

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 02792 062059Z

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SUBJECT: REPORTING CABLE ON COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
CULTURAL RELATIONS (CICR) MEETING OF FRIDAY, APRIL 29

1. AT CICR MEETING APRIL 29, MOST DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON
PROCEDURAL ROADBLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE NATO INFORMATION POLICY
AND NATO VISITORS PROGRAM. BEFORE ADDRESSING FIRST ITEM,
NATIS DIRECTOR KOREN CRITICIZED COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR
DELAYING FOR THREE MONTHS PRESENTATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
MILITARY STAFF (IMS) PRESS BRIEFING ON EAST-WEST
STRATEGIC BALANCE. AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO KOREN, THE
MATERIAL HAD LOST TIMELINESS AND IMPACT. (BRIEFING FINALLY
GIVEN BY IMS ON MAY 4.) IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED
FOR JANUARY, BUT SEVERAL CICR REPS (FRANCE, NETHERLANDS,
ITALY AND GREECE) REQUESTED A DRYRUN FOR THEIR AMBASSADORS,
AND PROBLEMS IN SCHEDULING THESE BRIEFINGS AND SUBSEQUENT
REQUESTS FOR CHANGES BY TWO DELEGATIONS DELAYED THE
PRESENTATION. (MOST MEMBERS CONSIDERED THAT NATIS SHARED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR AT LEAST PART OF THREE MONTHS DELAY.)

2. KOREN CHARACTERIZED HIS STATEMENT AS A QUOTE WARNING
END QUOTE TO THE COMMITTEE THAT IT WAS EMBARKED ON A
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"DANGEROUS" PATH WHICH COULD INHIBIT INFORMATION PROGRAMS
BY SUBJECTING ALL INFORMATION ACTIVITY TO COMMITTEE AND
DELEGATION CONTROL. KOREN'S STRONG LANGUAGE IRRITATED
THE ITALIANS, FRENCH AND DUTCH. THE LATTER DEFENDED
THEIR REQUEST FOR A DRY-RUN ON GROUNDS OF POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS OF ANY BRIEFING ON THE STRATEGIC BALANCE.
VIGOROUS AND HEATED TWO HOUR DISCUSSION ENSUED, IN WHICH

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, STRESSING TIME-CONSUMING PRACTICES WHICH ALREADY SLOW FLOW OF NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM NATO TO JOURNALISTS AND PUBLICS, URGED THAT COMMITTEE NOT IMPOSE ANY NEW OBSTACLES TO NATIS EFFECTIVENESS. DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, WAS INCONCLUSIVE AND ISSUE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE RAISED AGAIN. US AND UK PLAN TO OPPOSE COMMITTEE OR DELEGATION CONTROL OF NATIS OUTPUT.

3. KOREN PROPOSES EITHER SEPTEMBER 23 OR SEPTEMBER 30 AS DATE FOR NEXT CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICERS (CONIO) MEETING. ACTION REQUESTED: INDICATION OF PREFERRED DATES.

4. COMMENT: IMS BRIEFING CITED BY KOREN WAS CLEAR EXAMPLE OF DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF EVEN WELL-INTENTIONED CICR INITIATIVES ON A SMOOTH FLOW OF INFORMATION. WE BELIEVE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE, IMPRESSED BY KOREN STATEMENT, ARE NOW MUCH MORE SENSITIVE TO RAMIFICATIONS OF ORIGINAL FRENCH INITIATIVE. BUT WE BELIEVE WE WILL NEED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON IF WE ARE TO KEEP ALLIES -- ESPECIALLY FRANCE -- FROM ERODING NATO INFORMATION ACTIVITIES. AT SOME POINT WE MAY WANT TO ENLIST SYG LUNS' EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF EASING NATIONAL PRESSURES ON NATIS. END COMMENT.
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